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United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

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News Release

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2 Twin Cities metro area men indicted for conspiracy to distribute cocaine

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment against two Twin Cities metro area men for allegedly conspiring to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine. In an indictment filed with the court earlier today, Abel Tajonar Moctezuma, 36, Richfield, was charged with one count of conspiracy, four counts of distribution of cocaine, one count of distribution of 500 or more grams of cocaine and one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Juan Carlos Carrasco, 39, Minneapolis, was charged with one count of conspiracy, five counts of distribution of cocaine and one count of distribution of 500 or more grams of cocaine.

The indictment alleges that from August 5 to September 23, 2009, the defendants conspired to distribute 500 or more grams of cocaine. It also alleges both men distributed undisclosed amounts of cocaine on August 13, 20, 24, and September 10, 2009, as well as distributed 500 or more grams of cocaine on September 23, 2009. Carrasco, the indictment alleges, also distributed an undisclosed amount of cocaine on August 5, 2009. It also alleges Moctezuma possessed with intent to distribute an undisclosed amount of cocaine on September 23.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, police conducted controlled purchases of cocaine from Carrasco at various locations in Minneapolis. He was seen meeting with Moctezuma during five of those purchases. On September 23, both men were arrested after selling 1 kilogram of cocaine near Moctezuma's residence. Police found an additional 168 grams of cocaine in Moctezuma's residence during an executed search warrant.

If convicted, both men face a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison on the conspiracy count, 20 years on each distribution count, 40 years on the distribution of 500 or more grams count, and Moctezuma faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years on the possession count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and the

DEA. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.